

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 NEA-10 ACDA-19 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 DOTE-00 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 SY-10 AID-20 PC-04 CU-04 DRC-01 OMB-01

/200 W

----- 043200

P R 081103Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7076

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: ANTI-NIMEIRI DEVELOPMENTS: STATUS REPORT VIII

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: NIMEIRI ISSUES FIRST STATEMENTS, TOURS TROOP UNITS AND VISITS ATBARA. GENERAL STRIKE FAILS; RAILROAD OPERATING AT REDUCED BUT POLITICALLY EFFECTIVE LEVEL. RADIO/TV SPEECH SKED FOR SEPT. 8 IN ENVIRONMENT WHICH HAS LOST SOME OF ITS EMOTIONAL EDGE. END SUMMARY.

2. NIMEIRI TO ADDRESS NATION. PRESS HAS ANNOUNCED NIMEIRI WILL MAKE NATIONWIDE RADIO-TV ADDRESS TONIGHT, SEPT. 8.

3. NIMEIRI ISSUES STATEMENT: RADIO YESTERDAY AND PRESS TODAY CARRY DELAYED STATEMENT ISSUED IN PRESIDENT'S NAME. NIMEIRI STATES HE RETURNED TO FIND "FORCES OF EVIL" FOILED AND MATTERS "RETURNED
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TO NORMAL". HE PRAISED ARMED FORCES, POLICE AND SECURITY

ELEMENTS ON THEIR CONDUCT INCLUDING RESTRAINT. HE ADDED HE WOULD STUDY DETAILS OF "CONSPIRACY" AND TAKE "FIRM, DECISIVE AND PUNITIVE DECISIONS AGAINST ALL ITS LEADERS AND THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN IT". HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WOULD ADOPT RESOLUTIONS NECESSARY TO PROTECT REVOLUTION. NIMEIRI ADOPTED SOMEWHAT CONCILIATORY APPROACH IN SUBSEQUENT REPORTED MEETING WITH SSU YOUTH GROUPS WHEN HE SAID "CONSPIRACY WAS IN INTEREST OF COUNTRY BECAUSE IT REVEALED MANY SHORTCOMINGS IN OUR POLITICAL AND EXECUTIVE ORGANIZATIONS". HOWEVER, HE WENT ON TO CITE AS EXAMPLE OF SHORTCOMINGS REVEALED THE "QUALITY OF TEACHERS IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS" WHICH WILL NOT BE CREDIBLE WITH MANY SUDANESE. IN VERY AMBIGUOUS COMMENT, HE WAS REPORTED (IN PRESS BUT NOT RADIO) AS SAYING HE WOULD "TACKLE THOSE IN LEADERSHIP AND OTHER SSU ELEMENTS WHO BETRAYED THE ORGANIZATION IN SAME MANNER AS LOYAL SSU SUPPORTERS HAD SETTLED SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS IN THE STREETS". COMMENT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS EITHER CRITICISM OR ENDORSEMENT VIGILANTE TACTICS URGED BY ABUL GASSIM WHICH SHOCKED SUDANESE.

4. PRESIDENT'S OTHER ACTIVITIES: WE ALSO UNDERSTAND HE HAS BEEN BRIEFED EXTENSIVELY BY VP BAGHIR, THAT HE MADE TOUR OF ARMY INSTALLATIONS IN CAPITAL PRAISING TROOPS AND GIVING REVOLUTIONARY PEP TALKS, AND WENT TO ATBARA VIA HELICOPTER IN EFFORT RESTORE RAILWAY WORKERS STRIKE.

5. STRIKES. FIRST REPORTS TODAY WOULD INDICATE THAT GENERAL STRIKE NOT EFFECTIVE. SOME WAVERING GROUPS OF THURSDAY APPEAR ACTIVELY EMPLOYED TODAY. RAILWAY ACTIVITY IN KHARTOUM IS REDUCED BUT REASSURING TO PUBLIC. WHETHER TRAINS ARE NOW RUNNING WITH REGULAR STAFF IS UNCERTAIN. WE UNDERSTAND ATBARA ALSO IN PROCESS RETURNING TO WORK. HOWEVER, THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF POSSIBLE RAILROAD SABOTAGE INCLUDING A RELIABLE REPORT THAT A RAILROAD BRIDGE OUTSIDE KHARTOUM WAS BLOWN UP. THIS IS INDIRECTLY CONFIRMED BY PRESS REPORT CONDEMNING AN "ACT OF SABOTAGE" ISSUED BY SSU RAILWAY WORKERS UNIT IN GEDAREF. VP BAGHIR HAS ALSO ISSUED STATEMENT CONDEMNING SABOTAGE IN GENERAL. SOME RUMORS CIRCULATING THAT NIMEIRI AND ARRESTED UNION LEADERS HAVE COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING.

6. VICE CHANCELLOR'S POSITION: CONTRARY TO STATUS REPORT IV, UNIV VICE CHANCELLOR HAS NOT RESIGNED. HE ALSO CONFIRMED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBOFF THAT HE AND OTHER UNIVERSITY LEADERS HAD CLOSED UNIVERSITY BECAUSE STUDENTS HAD REACHED AN UNCONTROLLABLE EMOTIONAL PITCH AND HE WELCOMED TROOPS WHICH WERE ONLY GUARANTEE UNIVERSITY PROPERTY WOULD NOT BE DAMAGED.

7. COMMENT: NIMEIRI'S SPEECH TONIGHT REMAINS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE, BUT APPARENT FAILURE OF STRIKE REMOVES SOME OF EMOTIONAL EDGE TO SITUATION. FRITTS

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Message Attributes

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